

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/899,636

Examiner

Hieu c. Le

Applicant(s)

TOYOSHIMA ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 4-4-05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-23 renumbered 1-22 for issue.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____



ANDREW CALDWELL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for the following Examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Anne Vachon Dougherty , on 6/13/05.

Anne Vachon Dougherty (reg. # 30,374), acting as applicant's representative, authorized the following amendment:

Please amend the claims as follows :

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (canceled)

2. (previously presented) The network system according to claim 4, wherein profile data associated with the service is included in the database; and wherein the console manager includes means for permitting the general management consoles to register, change, schedule or delete a service and to access the profile data.

3. (original) The network system according to claim 2, wherein job data associated with the profile data is included in the database; and wherein the network system further comprises means, when the devices are connected to the device management server, for searching for data and for requesting services associated with the device data available at the devices.

4. (currently amended) A network system for using a device management server to manage devices connected to a computer network, comprising:

a plurality of general management consoles connected to the computer network;

a supervisor management console accessible by the device management server;

a database, connected to the device management server, that includes enterprise data associated with each of the general management consoles and device data associated with the enterprise data for each of the devices;

a console manager for an ~~the~~ intermediate transfer of data between at least one of the general management consoles and the supervisor management console and the database; and

means for referring to the enterprise data and the device data to permit the general management consoles to offer a service for at least one of a device and an associated group of devices,

wherein management data associated with each of the general management consoles is included in the database; and wherein there is further included means for, when the general management console logs in the device management server, examining an administrator using the enterprise data and the management data.

5. (previously presented) The network system according to claim 4, further comprising:

means for permitting the supervisor management console to access, register, change or delete at least one of device data associated with the devices, enterprise data, management data, profile data and job data.

6. (currently amended) A device management method, for a network system that comprises devices connected to a computer network, a device management server to manage the devices, a plurality of general management consoles connected to the computer network, a supervisor management console accessible by the device management server, a database, connected to the device management server, that

includes enterprise data associated with each of the general management consoles and the device data associated with the enterprise data for each of the devices, a console manager for an the intermediate transfer of data between the general management consoles or the supervisor management console and the database, the device management method comprising steps of:

the general management consoles issuing a connection request to the device management server;

the console manager obtaining information, including enterprise IDs for the general management consoles, and searching the enterprise data to verify at least some of said plurality of general management consoles as verified general management consoles; and

the verified general management consoles receiving permission to offer, and offering a service to individual devices, or a group thereof, whereat device data are available that are associated with the enterprise data, which are designated by the enterprise IDs.

7. (original) The device management method according to claim 6, wherein a profile data associated with the service is included in the database; and wherein the general management consoles that are verified are permitted to register, change, schedule or delete a service and to access the profile data.

8. (original) The device management method according to claim 7, wherein job data associated with the profile

data is included in the database; wherein there are further included the steps of:

- connecting the devices to the device management server,

- searching for the job data, and

- requesting services associated with the device data available at the devices.

9. (original) The device management method according to claim 6, wherein management data associated with each of the general management consoles is included in the database; and wherein there are further included the steps of:

- at least one of said general management consoles logging in the device management server, and examining an administrator using the enterprise data and the management data.

10. (original) The device management method according to claim 6, wherein the supervisor management console is permitted to access, register, change or delete device data associated with all the devices, enterprise data, management data, profile data or job data.

11. (currently amended) A system for managing devices connected to a computer network comprising:

- a device management server connected to the computer network;

- a supervisor management console accessible by the device management server;

a database, connected to the device management server, that includes enterprise data associated with each of a plurality of general management consoles and the device data associated with the enterprise data for each of the devices;

a console manager for an the intermediate transfer of data between general management consoles connected to the computer network or the supervisor management console and the database; and

means for, upon receipt of connection requests from the general consoles, referring to the enterprise data and the device data to permit the general management consoles to offer a service for the devices, or an associated group thereof.

12. (original) The system according to claim 11, wherein a profile data associated with the service is included in the database; and wherein the console manager includes means for permitting the general management consoles to register, change, schedule or delete a service and to access the profile data.

13. (original) The system according to claim 12, wherein job data associated with the profile data is included in the database; and wherein the network system further comprises means, when the devices are connected to the device management server, for searching for data and for requesting services associated with the device data available at the devices.

14. (original) The system according to claim 11, wherein management data associated with each of the general management consoles is included in the database; and wherein there is further included means for, when the general management console logs in the device management server, examining an administrator using the enterprise data and the management data.

15. (original) The network system according to claim 11, further comprising:

means for permitting the supervisor management console to access, register, change or delete device data associated with all the devices, enterprise data, management data, profile data or job data.

16. (currently amended) A data processing method using a device management system that comprises a device management server to manage devices connected to a computer network, a supervisor management console accessible to the device management server, a database, connected to the device management server, that includes enterprise data associated with each of a plurality of general management consoles and the device data associated with the enterprise data for each of the devices, and a console manager for an ~~the~~ intermediate transfer of data between the supervisor management console, or general management consoles connected to the computer network and the database, the data processing method comprising steps of:

upon receipt of connection requests from the general management consoles, the console manager obtaining

information, including enterprise IDs for the general management consoles;

searching the enterprise data to verify the general management consoles; and

the verified general management consoles receiving permission to offer, and offering a service to individual devices, or a group thereof, whereat device data are available that are associated with the enterprise data, which are designated by the enterprise IDs.

17. (original) The data processing method according to claim 16, wherein a profile data associated with the service is included in the database; and wherein the general management consoles that are verified are permitted to register, change, schedule or delete a service and to access the profile data.

18. (original) The data processing method according to claim 17, wherein job data associated with the profile data is included in the database; wherein there are further included the steps of:

connecting the devices to the device management server,

searching for the job data, and

providing, for the devices, services associated with the device data available at the devices.

19. (original) The data processing method according to claim 16, wherein management data associated with each

of the general management consoles is included in the database; and wherein there is further included the step of
upon receipt of a connection request from each of the general management consoles, examining an administrator of the general management console using the enterprise data and the management data.

20. (original) The data processing method according to claim 16, wherein the supervisor management console is permitted to access, register, change or delete device data associated with all the devices, enterprise data, management data, profile data or job data.

21. (original) A computer-readable storage medium in which a program is stored that permits a computer to perform the steps of:

upon receipt of connection requests from at least one of a plurality of general management consoles connected to a computer network, obtaining information including enterprise IDs from the general management consoles;

searching the enterprise data of a database connected to the device management server to verify at least some of the general management consoles as verified general management consoles;

searching for devices, or a group thereof, whereat device data are available that are stored in the database and are associated with the enterprise data, which are designated by the enterprise IDs; and

permitting the verified general management consoles to offer a service to the devices or the group thereof.

22. (original) The storage medium according to claim 21, wherein the program permits the computer to permit the general management consoles that are verified to register, change, schedule or delete a service and to access the profile data.

23. (original) The storage medium according to claim 22, wherein the program permits the computer to perform the steps of:

upon receipt of connection requests from the devices, connecting the devices to the device management server,

searching for job data associated with the profile data, and

providing, for the devices, services associated with the device data available at the devices.

24. (canceled)

Objections for Drawing

3. Figure 1 is objected to 37 CFR 1.84 (i) because words do not appear in a horizontal, left to right fashion when the page is turned so that the top becomes the right side. A corrected drawing is required.

Reasons for Allowance

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present invention related to a network system for using a device management server to manage devices connected to a computer network, comprises: general management consoles connected to the computer network; a supervisor management console accessible by the device management server; a database, connected to the device management server, that includes enterprise data associated with each of the general management consoles and the device data associated with the enterprise data for each of the devices; a console manager for the intermediate transfer of data between the general management consoles or the supervisor management console and the database; and means for referring to the enterprise data and the device data to permit the general management consoles to offer a service for the devices. Ishii et al (Japanese Patent Publication 11-74883. US. Patent 6,662,222 is used as an official translation of Japanese Patent Publication 11-74883). Regarding to claim 4, the Patents claims fail to teach, recites, and/or "wherein management data associated with each of the general management consoles is included in the database and wherein there is further included means for, when the general management console logs in the device management server, examining an administrator using the enterprise data and the

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management data ". Regarding to claim 11, " the console manager obtaining information, including enterprise IDs for the general management consoles, and searching the enterprise data to verify at least some of said plurality of general management consoles as verified general management consoles". Regarding to claim 16, "the verified general management consoles receiving permission to offer, and offering a service to individual devices, or a group thereof, where at device data are available that are associated with the enterprise data," . Regarding to claim 21, "searching the enterprise data of a database connected to the device management server to verify at least some of the general management consoles as verified general management consoles" .

5. Claims 2-23 are allowed (renumbered 1-22 for issue).

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hieu Le whose telephone number is (571) 272-3897.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Caldwell Andrew, can be reached on (571) 272-3868. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Hieu Le



ANDREW CALDWELL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER